

What are the employer's rights?

- ◆ Employer may terminate the consultation and evaluation process at any time.
- ◆ Employer may disagree with the schedule to correct deficiencies in their lead safety and health program.

What are the steps involved in the entire process?

- ◆ DHSS contacts employer to schedule site visit.
- ◆ Opening conference is held on-site with the employer.
- ◆ Lead educational training is conducted for employees and employer.
- ◆ Lead educational materials are distributed to employer and employees during the training.
- ◆ Walk-through evaluation of the workplace is conducted.
- ◆ Wipe samples are collected, if necessary.
- ◆ Report with recommendations is issued to the employer within a month.
- ◆ Employer's response on the report is sought.
- ◆ DHSS provides consultation and technical assistance to employer to correct deficiencies.

Schedule an appointment today!
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Occupational Health Surveillance Program
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On-site Lead Educational Training and Workplace Evaluation

A **free service** from the Adult
Blood Lead Epidemiology
and Surveillance Project
for companies that use lead.



James E. McGreevey
Governor



Clifton R. Lacy, M.D.
Commissioner

Division of Epidemiology,
Environmental and Occupational Health

Help us keep New Jersey workplaces safe and healthy!

What are the on-site lead services about?

Lead educational training and workplace evaluation are free on-site services offered by the New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) as part of the Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance Project (ABLES). Participation is completely voluntary. Both services are specifically tailored to the needs of lead-using workplaces to help them reduce or eliminate lead exposures to their employees. In most instances, the training sessions are conducted in conjunction with an employer's safety and health representatives.

What is ABLES?

The ABLES program is a state-based surveillance program of laboratory reported adult blood lead levels funded by CDC/NIOSH.* It is intended to identify and prevent cases of elevated blood lead levels in adults. ABLES started in 1987 with four states and has grown to 35 states in 2002.

Why does DHSS conduct this training and evaluation?

Lead continues to be one of the most widely used metals. Every day, employees in New Jersey are exposed to this toxic metal and may get sick as a result of this exposure. Lead affects many organs and systems in the body, particularly the nervous system, kidneys, and blood forming organs.

What is involved in an on-site lead evaluation?

A DHSS industrial hygienist conducts a walk-through evaluation to identify, evaluate, and recommend corrective actions to mitigate lead hazards. Lead surface wipe samples are also collected to characterize lead contamination throughout the workplace.

What topics are covered during a lead educational training session?

Each session is designed to meet the employer's and employees' needs. Common topics include:

- ◆ Lead exposure sources
- ◆ Health effects of lead in adults
- ◆ The OSHA Lead standards
- ◆ Requirements for lead air monitoring
- ◆ Engineering controls to reduce lead exposure
- ◆ Work practices to reduce lead exposure
- ◆ Respiratory protection
- ◆ Protective work clothing and equipment
- ◆ Housekeeping/hygiene/maintenance
- ◆ Medical surveillance requirements



This worker is potentially exposed to lead fumes while melting metals in a batch process at approximately 2,000 °F. There is no exhaust ventilation and the worker is not wearing personal protective equipment.

What are the employer's responsibilities?

- ◆ Although the DHSS does not take enforcement actions, employers are expected to cooperate by taking the necessary actions to reduce lead exposure hazards to their employees.
- ◆ Employers are expected to implement DHSS recommendations in a timely manner.
- ◆ Union officials should be allowed to participate in the evaluation and decision-making process.
- ◆ DHSS representatives should be allowed to interview employees to collect pertinent information.

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health